(c) to (e) No Sir, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at the present. The modalities in respect of the implementation of these Schemes are worked out by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments of Central Government in consultation with the State Governments. Releases to the states for CSS are made in installments by Administrative Ministries concerned and the details of releases about these schemes are available with them. The criteria for allocation of funds under CSS to individual States is finalized by the Ministry in consultation with the State Governments and Planning Commission. The monitoring is done by the respective administrative Ministries.

Interview dates based on community

*299. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the selected candidates for UPSC Exam are allotted interview dates on the basis of community, that is OC, OBC, SC and ST, and that this segregation has resulted in SC and OBC candidates invariably getting lower marks than the candidates from OC category;

(b) whether this segregation is not against the spirit of Social Justice enshrined in the Constitution of India;

(c) whether the Interview Boards are aware of the communal background of the candidates; and

(d) if so, what is the guarantee that marks awarded would not be from bias?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The segregation is as per the MHA's OM No. 1/1/70-Estt (SCT) dated 31st July, 1970 which provides that the interview for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates should be held on a day or sitting of the Selection Committee other than the day or sitting on which general candidates are to be interviewed so that Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates are not judged in comparison with other general candidates and the interviewing authority/board is/are prominently aware of the need for judging the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates by relaxed standards. Thus the Question of getting lower marks by the reserved community candidates due to this segregation does not arise.

(b) The segregation of candidates, in fact, is aimed at reinforcing the spirit of social justice enshrined in the Constitution of India.

(c) and (d) The community status of the reserved category candidates are not divulged before the members of the Interview Board except the Chairman of the Interview Board. Therefore, the question of being biased in awarding marks due to awareness of communal background of candidates by the Board of Interview does not arise.

E-District Project

*300. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: